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COMMENTS:

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/660,020
NANOFILTER SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USE
Art Unit 1723
Our Reference: 21401-96

Attached is a Declaration in the above-referenced matter.

Michael J. Donohue
Registration No. 35,859

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PAGE 02/04

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EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV620104955US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jeffrey T. Ranney
Application No. : 10/660,020
Filed : September 11, 2003
For : NANOFILTER SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USE

Examiner : Krishnan S. Menon
Art Unit : 1723
Docket No. : 21401-86
Date : February 10, 2006

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF C. ANTHONY DAVIS
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.131

Dear Sir:

I, C. Anthony Davis, declare and state as follows:

1. Harris Group Inc. is the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest of the above-referenced patent application. The inventor assignment to Harris Group, Inc. is recorded at Reel 014496, Frame 0917.

2. I am general counsel for Harris Group Inc. and am familiar with the record keeping procedures of the company. I am the corporate Secretary and authorized to sign this declaration on behalf of Harris Group, Inc.

3. At my direction, the employees of Harris Group Inc. have reviewed documents related to the development of the filtration system described and claimed in

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PAGE 03/04

the above-referenced patent application. The documents were generated in the ordinary course of business and maintained in accordance with company procedures.

4. A copy of an engineering drawing is attached hereto as "Exhibit A." Although dates have been removed from Exhibit A, the document produced as Exhibit A was created prior to February 25, 2003. The flow sheet illustrates a chromatographic unit, a nanofiltration chamber and filter assembly, an evaporative processor, and a feedback line returning concentrated sugar from the nanofiltration unit to the chromatographic unit for additional subsequent separation. For easy identification, these components in Exhibit A have been circled in red. The feedback line is further labeled in Exhibit A while the remaining elements are already labeled in the existing drawing. This demonstrates that the applicant had completed conception of the invention in the United States as described and claimed in the present application by at least as early as February 25, 2003.

5. Construction and testing of the unit occurred over the course of the next several months. A patent disclosure document was provided to Mr. Michael J. Donohue, outside patent counsel for Harris Group Inc. in approximately August 2003. The present application was filed on September 11, 2003.

6. The declaration and assignment were completed by the sole inventor, Mr. Jeffrey T. Ranney. Mr. Ranney is no longer with Harris Group, Inc. and is believed to have moved to Puerto Rico. Mr. Ranney's last known address is:

3212 11th Avenue W.

Seattle, WA 98119

I attempted to contact Mr. Ranney by voice mail and email and have received no response. It is believed that submission of the declaration by the assignee is necessary to preserve the rights of the assignee and to prevent irreparable damage by rejection of the patent application.

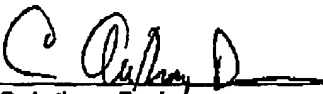
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PAGE 84/84

7. I hereby declare that all statements made of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and, further, that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued thereon.

2/10/06
Date


C. Anthony Davis
Secretary/General Counsel

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